

QUARTERLY SUMMARY
OF THE
IMPROVEMENTS AND DISCOVERIES
IN THE
MEDICAL SCIENCES.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

1. *New Structure in the Spermatic Cord.*—M. GIRALDES describes certain tubular and vesicular bodies which he has discovered in the spermatic cord, and which he considers to be the remains of the Wolffian body of the embryo.

The structures in question, which he proposes to designate collectively by the term “*Corps Innominé*,” form a small group, situated behind the tunica vaginalis, between that membrane and the spermatic vessels, and extending usually from the head of the epididymis as high as the point where the membrane is reflected forwards from the cord; sometimes, however, reaching much higher up; or, on the other hand, being more concentrated in the neighbourhood of the epididymis.

The “*Corps Innominé*” is found in the new-born infant, and in a more or less modified condition at all later periods of life; it has also been met with in the lower animals. To facilitate its detection and examination, the author has found it advantageous previously to render the surrounding tissues transparent, by macerating the spermatic cord in an acid solution, for which purpose he recommends the use of tartaric or citric acid in the infant, and of dilute nitric acid in the adult.

After this preparation minute whitish specks make their appearance in the situation above mentioned, which, when examined with the microscope, are found to be produced by small vesicles and convoluted tubes of varied and curious shape, surrounded by a plexus of small bloodvessels, which are distributed on their parieties. The tubes are short, tortuous, and for the most part beset with very unequal-sized and irregular varicose dilatations, and sometimes with short branches, ending in rounded swollen extremities. The vesicles are round or oval, like short closed segments of a varicose tube, and generally with irregularly protruding outline. The walls of both vesicles and tubes are formed of a fibrous connective tissue, and lined with epithelium; and they inclose a consistent but clear fluid, holding in suspension epithelium particles and transparent granules. This description applies to the condition of the structures in question, as found in the infant, and up to the age of from six to ten years; after this they begin to be atrophied, so that, although still present in the adult, they are usually less marked; but, on the other hand, they then sometimes contain a more consistent liquid, and are occasionally dilated, so as to constitute certain forms of cysts known to occur in the spermatic cord.

As already stated, the author regards the “*Corps Innominé*” as formed by the atrophied remains of the Wolffian body, and therefore comparable to the so-called “*organ of Rosenmüller*,” which is found in the broad ligament of the uterus, and represents the vestiges of the Wolffian body in the female; and as

certain vesicular productions in the broad ligament may take their rise from these remnants, so the author, as before remarked, has satisfied himself that the origin of some of the cysts of the spermatic cord may be traced to dilatation of the tubular elements of the "Corps Innomine" in the male.

The paper is illustrated by drawings, representing the objects in their natural size and situation, and also as seen under the microscope.—*Proceedings of Royal Society.*

2. *Normal Existence of Urea in Healthy Perspiration.*—FUNCKE confirms the normal existence of urea in considerable proportion in healthy cutaneous transpiration, a fact denied by Schottin.—*Moleschatt's Beiträge*, 1858.

3. *Accommodation of the Eye.*—GRAEFE describes a case of importance for the doctrine of accommodation—namely, a complete paralysis of all six muscles of the eyeball without diminution of the faculty of accommodation. In another case Gräfe observed a spasmotic condition of the apparatus of accommodation, finding it, after an injury to the eye, constantly in the state suited for near objects, with inability to see distinctly distant objects.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Rev.*, July, 1858, from *Gräfe's Archiv.*, vol. ii.

4. *Physiology of the Nervous System.*—Dr. ALEX. HENRY, in his abstract of the lectures recently delivered by Dr. BROWN-SEQUARD on the physiology of the nervous system, gives the following general recapitulation of the main object which the author desired to prove:—

1. The gray matter of the cord is the principal channel by which sensitive impressions are conveyed to the brain.

2. The anterior columns have a share in the transmission of sensitive impressions.

3. Injury of one lateral half of the cerebro-spinal axis produces certain well-marked features, according to the following table:—

a. Injury of the brain produces—

<i>On same side.</i>	<i>On opposite side.</i>
Anæsthesia.	Normal sensation.
Paralysis.	Normal motor power.
Increased temperature.	Normal heat.

b. Injury at any point from the tubercula quadrigemina to the medulla oblongata above the decussation in the pyramids produces—

<i>On same side.</i>	<i>On opposite side.</i>
Anæsthesia.	Hyperesthesia.
Paralysis.	No paralysis.
Diminished temperature.	Increased temperature.

c. Injury of the medulla oblongata at the crossing in the pyramids produces paralysis of motion on both sides; otherwise the symptoms are the same as in b, when the pons Varolii is injured.

d. Injury of the spinal cord on one side produces—

<i>On same side.</i>	<i>On opposite side.</i>
Anæsthesia.	Hyperesthesia.
No paralysis.	Paralysis.
Diminished temperature.	Increased temperature.

Anæsthesia and diminished temperature almost always accompany each other; but an exception is observed in Class a—*injury of the brain proper.* This may possibly be explained by the fact that the nerves with which the bloodvessels are supplied decussate in the cerebro-spinal axis at a higher point than the ordinary sensitive nerves—apparently above the corpora quadrigemina. Hence, if the brain proper be divided on one side, dilatation of the bloodvessels on the opposite side will be produced. The occurrence of increased temperature on the paralyzed side in injuries of the brain has frequently escaped notice;